

VPP: Parsons Research & Development Complex (PR&DC) - Pasco achieves top recognition



Parsons Research & Development Complex in Pasco achieves top recognition for occupational safety & health as Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) STAR.

The Parsons Research & Development Complex in Pasco specializes in the design, fabrication and testing of complex process equipment for Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Energy (DOE). DOD and DOE projects range from conceptual design engineering; To design build from drawings; mockup fabrication of model size to full scale; testing with selected stimulants; to final production and fabrication, operational testing, installation and evaluation. Parsons Research & Development Complex has over 250,000 square feet of indoor fabrication, assembly and test area which is located approximately 3 miles east of Pasco near the Columbia River and leased from the Pasco Port Authority.

On October 5, 2005, the Pasco site celebrated achieving the prestigious VPP STAR status with an award ceremony.



Pictured in Photo (from left to right) Mel James, Jack Scott, Jerry Hipp, Jim Osterloh and Andy Peters receiving the VPP STAR plaque.

Jim Osterloh, Director of Parsons Research & Development Complex, was the MC for the ceremony and spoke on the achievement of this monumental award. Mr. Osterloh welcomed Mike Garrison, Mayor of Pasco; Barb Lisk representing Congressman Doc Hastings; Jim Penor representing State Representative Shirley Hankins; Port of Pasco Manager, Bill Clark; Union representatives, John Jeskey and Bobby Brotherton and Carl Adrian from TRIDEC. Speakers at the ceremony were Jerry Hipp, Safety & Health Manager; Dave Bushey, Safety Committee Chairperson; Andy Peters, Corporate Vice President of Safety; Jack Scott, President and Chief Operating Officer of Parsons and Mel James, Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) Acting Senior Program Manager.

All the speakers spoke of the commitment and efforts taken to provide a workplace safe for all employees and their continued commitment to workers and the community.

Mel James addressed the audience on the company's management commitment and employee involvement required to achieve a quality safety and health program. In addition, Mel James presented the VPP plaque to Jim Osterloh and the VPP flag to the site's Safety Committee. VPP status is approved by WISHA Services for worksite applicants who have achieved outstanding safety and health programs. Only 1,351 sites nationally have achieved this elite VPP status. Parsons Research & Development Complex in Pasco was approved as a VPP STAR site on September 27, 2005 and is WISHA's twenty-third STAR site.



Mel James, WISHA Services, Acting Senior Program Manager along with representatives from WISHA, presented the prestigious VPP status flag to the Parsons Research & Development Complex's Safety Committee members.



Pictured in Photo Jack Scott addressing the audience.

The worksite's potential hazards associated with fabrication activities, including machinery and hand tools with moving parts, electrical hazards, aerial lifts, cranes, hoists, rigging, and material-handling equipment, ergonomic hazards, walking/working surfaces, high noise levels, welding exposures and hazardous chemicals. In spite of these hazards, the site's three-year average injury/illness recordable rate for 2002-2004 is 89% below the national average for similar industries and 93% below the national average for days away, restricted, or transferred.

Parsons Research & Development Complex employs 143 employees, earned its VPP STAR through commitment, leadership, and extensive employee participation in developing a continuously improving safety and health program. The site applied for VPP STAR status and received an on-site review by a team of four WISHA safety and health professionals in August 2005. The site maintains their status by conducting annual self-evaluations on their safety and health programs and will receive a comprehensive onsite review every three years by WISHA staff.



Picture: Above: VPP Flag and Aerial view of Parsons Research & Development Complex in Pasco.

WISHA's review team observed that management and employees are committed to continuous improvements of the site's safety and health program.

For more information, contact Jerry Hipp, Safety & Health Manager for the Parsons Research & Development Complex Pasco site at 509-547-7724. For more information about WISHA's Voluntary Protection Program, in which WISHA and Washington companies work together to improve safety and health programs, call WISHA, Kenneth Werenko, Safety and Health VPP Specialist, 360-902-5515.